

Loud & Clear

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Staff News

Retirement Roundup

Please join us in wishing farewell and good luck to Carole McElvain, Access Services outreach manager for 18 years. She said goodbye to her friends and coworkers in May. Carole's warmth and people skills have defined the outreach program. During her tenure, she coordinated the delivery of large print and regular print library books to over 46 sites in Fairfax County. These sites included retirement and assisted living facilities. She personally managed 72 home-delivery customers, who were unable to visit a library due to physical or visual barriers. Carole selected the books for the customer; placed hold requests; and then mailed the books. She was an essential part of Access Services and she will be missed. Happy retirement, Carole!

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**Fairfax
County
Public
Library**

Access Services

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New Librarian on Board

Our super Reader's Advisor, Jennifer Durand, has achieved an amazing feat! She recently received her Master of Library and Information Science degree. During the two and a half years she attended classes, Jennifer worked full time at Access Services and provided extensive one-on-one customer service.

Jennifer may have studied way into the night, but she always had a smile and “How may I help you?” for Access Services’ customers.

Welcome

Royce Zivan has joined Access Services as outreach manager. For the past four years, she has served as the assistant circulation manager and volunteer coordinator at the Centreville Regional Library. Royce has a varied background in library service and teaching in the elementary school grades. She brings a strong service commitment to her new position. Royce is also the new *Loud & Clear* editor. Please give Royce a call at 703-324-8389 or TTY 703-324-8365 if you have any questions about our homebound services or any ideas and suggestions about information you would like to see in *Loud & Clear*.

Congratulations to Talking Book User Christine Lowry!

Christine Lowry received a scholarship from Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic. Christine, who has been a Talking Book user since 1996, will attend Rochester Institute of Technology this fall where she will major in mechanical engineering. While in high school, Christine was a member of

the Rocketry Team and the president of the Robotics Team. She played violin in her school orchestra; served on the crew team; and participated in competitive horseback riding. Even with all these activities, Christine took advanced classes; was inducted into the National Honor Society; and served as the student representative to the Fairfax County School Board Advisory Council for Students with Disabilities. This summer, before heading off to college, Christine is working as an intern for Aerojet, but she promises she is also doing some fun reading. Christine credits RFB&D, as well as Access Services and Talking Books, for much of her success. We credit Christine's hard work and steadfast determination, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for this exceptional young woman.

Congratulations on your scholarship, Christine. We are so proud of you!

Talking Book Services Options

Talking Books users can change how frequently they will receive their books. Would you like to receive a book each time you return one to us? Would you like to receive a specific number of books each month or week? There is also an option called "on demand," which means we will send you books only when you request us to do so. You can select your own titles; let your Reader's Advisor select for you or have the computer generate a list of titles based on your reading interests. These options can be adjusted to suit your needs. Please call Access Services to make any changes.

What's New With Assistive Technology

Have you ever wondered what is new and hot in the assistive technology world? New products are introduced every day in the marketplace. These products are designed to provide additional

accessibility to individuals who have physical or cognitive difficulties, impairments and disabilities. Here are a few interesting ones:

Scan and View 5.0

Scan and View is an easy-to-use product that converts a computer and scanner into a CCTV (closed-circuit television). It is designed for individuals who often find themselves where the CCTV is not. It also is a low-cost alternative for those who already have a computer and cannot, or do not want, to spend the money for a CCTV.

Compact Portable Video Magnifier

Lightweight and portable, the compact hand-held electronic magnifier is the latest in low-vision technology. This magnifier easily fits into your purse, schoolbag or briefcase, bringing life into focus when you are on the go. Please call us for catalogs and additional information on assistive technology.

Related Links

ABLEDATA: **www.abledata.com**

Virginia Assistive Technology System: **www.vats.org**

UCP United Cerebral Palsy: **www.ucp.org**

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: **www.vddhh.org**

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Persons: **www.nvrc.org**

Audio-Described Videos

Access Services loans audio-described videos. These special videos include narrated descriptions of a movie's key visual elements, without interfering with the program dialogue.

The list of movie titles appears on the Access Services portion of Fairfax County Public Library Web site at: **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. Or, you may contact Access Services to have a large-print or braille list sent to you.

Virginia's GrandDriver Program

The Virginia Department for the Aging and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles announced the launch of Virginia's GrandDriver Program in May. The program urges the driving public, particularly drivers over 65 and their adult children, to learn more about the effects of aging on their ability to drive and to talk about all of the issues involved in this complex subject. The GrandDriver awareness initiative includes a Web site, www.granddriver.net, and a toll-free phone number, 1-800-552-3402, TTY 711.

Questions to Ask Your Eye Doctor

It is important to be an informed partner in your own eye care. One of your most valuable sources of information about your eyes is your eye doctor. Preparing a list of



questions to discuss at your appointment will help you understand the doctor's diagnosis and the recommended procedures. Here are a few questions to ask your eye doctor:

1. What kinds of diagnostic tests do I need? Do I need to do anything special to prepare for them?
2. What is my diagnosis?
3. What is the treatment for my condition?
4. When will treatment start and how long will it last?
5. Are there any side effects of the treatment?
6. Are there foods, drugs or activities that I should avoid while I am undergoing this treatment?
7. How may this condition affect my vision now and in the future?
8. Are there any particular symptoms I should watch for?
9. What should I do if these symptoms occur?
10. Will changing my diet, exercise or other lifestyle habits help improve my condition?

***The Aging Eye* by Sandra Gordon RC 54126**

Discusses the natural aging of the eye; how to protect one's vision; and the three most common disorders in later life: cataracts, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. Symptoms, diagnoses and treatments available for these conditions are described.

National Federation of the Blind Newsline

Would you like a newspaper with your morning cup of coffee? Newsline added its 140th newspaper in 2004 along with its first two magazines. And the service is still growing. It handles thousands of phone calls each day for individuals across the country who now access daily newspapers and magazines. The toll-free centralized call-in center provides services without delay to any subscriber. The call-in service also enables those who cannot read conventional print to have access to all of Newsline when traveling throughout the United States: 1-888-882-1629, TTY 711.

Prescription Drug Program

A Social Security Administration representative is scheduled this fall to explain the new Medicare prescription drug benefit program at some Fairfax County Public Library branches. Please note that if you are unable to attend a program, a friend, relative or caregiver can attend for you and pick up any important information. Please call Access Services for the list of branches that will have this program or go to the library's Web site for the information: [**www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

TECH FAIR | Spring 2006

Access Services staff and volunteers are making plans for our 2006 Tech Fair. We hope to see all of you next May at the exhibits, assistive technology demonstrations and special presentations! Watch for the exact date and a preview of the program in the next issue of *Loud & Clear*. If you have ideas or suggestions for the Tech Fair, please contact your Reader's Advisor at 703-324-8380, or call Branch Manager Starr Smith at 703-324-8390, TTY 703-324-8365. E-mail messages may be sent to access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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